

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1585

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, CS
SUBJECT: FACIO MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. FORMIN GONZALO FACIO'S APRIL 21 MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WILL BE ESSENTIALLY A FAREWELL CALL. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES RECOMMENDED COURTESY AND SUBSTANTIVE POINTS FOR USE IN THAT MEETING.

2. FACIO IS THE DEAN OF FORMINS IN THE ARA REGION, AND IS WIDELY CONSIDERED AMONG THE MOST ABLE IN THE HEMISPHERE. HE WILL BE RETURNING TO HIS PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE IN SAN JOSE AFTER THE RODRIGO CARAZO ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER MAY 8. FROM HIS LAW OFFICE HE MAY WELL BE DEALING IN SOME OF THE SAME PROBLEM AREAS -- ESPECIALLY IN TRADE MATTERS -- THAT HE SAW AS FORMIN.

3. COURTESY POINTS:
--CONGRATULATE FACIO FOR HIS ALMOST 8-YEAR PERIOD AS FORMIN IN THE SERVICE OF TWO PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA.
-- NOTE THE CONSTRUCTIVE POSITIONS THAT COSTA RICA HAS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS ISSUES WHILE HE HAS BEEN FORMIN.
--EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR THE HELPFUL ROLE OF PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FORMIN FACIO DURING THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

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--RECALL THE GOCR'S -- AND FORMIN FACIO'S -- LEADERSHIP EFFORTS IN THE 1975 OAS MEETING IN SAN JOSE WHEN OAS CUBAN SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED.
--CONGRATULATE COSTA RICA FOR ITS DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY IN THE UN AND THE OAS.

4. ISSUES FACIO LIKELY TO RAISE:

A. IDB/FSO FUNDING: GOCR HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISPLEASURE AT IDB POLICIES WHICH LIMIT COSTA RICAN ACCESS TO FSO CREDITS BECAUSE OF GNP PER CAPITA CRITERIA. FACIO MAY BE EXPECTED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AND SEEK US SUPPORT FOR MODIFICATION OF IDB POLICIES SO AS TO PERMIT COUNTRIES WITH GOOD INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES MORE LIBERAL ACCESS TO FSO FUNDS THAN IS NOW THE CASE. TYPICALLY, WHILE US RARELY CREDITED FOR IFI LENDING, WE ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTRICTIVE POLICIES IFIS MIGHT ADOPT. FOR EXAMPLE, GOCR HAS IMPRESSION THAT US MAY BE BLOCKING FINAL APPROVAL OF PROPOSED IDB EDUCATION LOAN WHICH GOCR WANTS TO SIGN BEFORE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. THUS, FACIO COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THAT PARTICULAR LOAN, AND POSSIBILITY OF EXPEDITING ITS APPROVAL.

B. SUGAR: WHILE FACIO IS LIKELY TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRAINTS ON SUGAR IMPORTS, HE WILL BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PREFERRED POSITION OF SUGAR SUPPLIERS SUCH AS COSTA RICA, WHICH BENEFIT FROM DUTY FREE TREATMENT UNDER GSP (BUT ARE SUBJECT TO IMPORT FEES).

C. TEXTILES: AS A RESULT OF A MARCH 1-2 VISIT BY A
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US TEXTILE TEAM, LOCAL TEXTILE INDUSTRY LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE US MAY PROPOSE A COMPREHENSIVE TEXTILE IMPORT RESTRAINT PROGRAM FOR COSTA RICA. FACIO LIKELY WILL ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN US INTENTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. ON A MORE GENERAL ISSUE, FACIO MAY INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO REPEAL TSUS 807.00.

D. MEAT: DESPITE THE APPARENT EASING OF EXPORT SITUATION FOR COSTA RICAN MEAT IN 1978, FACIO LIKELY WILL PRESS FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL (S&D) TREATMENT IN THE FUTURE FOR LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTERS UNDER THE MEAT IMPORT ACT.

E. TUNA: FACIO WAS SUPPORTIVE (WITHIN GOCR) OF SUCCESSFUL US COMPROMISE SOLUTION LEADING TO ADOPTION OF IATTC CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR 1978. HE IS, HOWEVER, CO-AUTHOR WITH MEXICO OF DRAFT PROPOSAL THAT

WOULD REPLACE IATTC REGIME WITH ONE THAT APPEARS MORE BENEFICIAL TO COSTA RICA AND RELATIVELY DISADVANTAGEOUS TO US. HIS GOM-GOCR PROPOSAL HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY

GREAT DEGREE OF LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT AND MAY BE SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE CONCERNED COUNTRIES. HE MAY MAKE NON-SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT US LEND SUPPORT TO EFFORTS TO FORMULATE MORE "EQUITABLE" REGIME GOVERNING TUNA RESOURCES.

F. HUMAN RIGHTS: FACIO MAY WANT TO KNOW HOW US ASSESSES POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS IN NEXT UNGA OF COSTA RICA'S DECADE-OLD PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH POSITION OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

G. VESCO: FACIO MAY WANT TO MAKE ONE FINAL EFFORT TO DEFEND THE ODUBER ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD IN THE VESCO CASE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE IS LIKELY TO POINT OUT
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THAT EVEN THOUGH THE GOCR PASSED A NEW EXTRADITION LAW IN LATE 1976, THE US DID NOT SEEK AGAIN TO EXTRADITE VESCO.

5. ISSUES TO RAISE WITH FACIO:

--WHAT COSTA RICAN POLICY TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE UNDER THE CARAZO ADMINISTRATION.

--WHAT THE FORMIN THINKS OF THE NICARAGUA SITUATION.
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